

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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For : SEMI-FINISHED ARTICLE WITH AN  
INTERLINKED STRUCTURE FOR THE  
GOLDSMITH AND COSTUME JEWELRY  
FIELD, PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR  
AND GOLDSMITHERY PRODUCTS  
OBTAINED FROM SAID SEMI-FINISHED  
ARTICLE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the captioned Application as follows:

The **Amendments To The Specification** begin on page 1.

The **Amendments To The Abstract** begin on page 11.

The **Amendments To The Claims** begin on page 12.

The **Remarks** begin on page 18.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend page 1, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

**[TITLE]**

SEMI-FINISHED ARTICLE WITH AN INTERLINKED STRUCTURE FOR  
 THE GOLDSMITH AND COSTUME JEWELRY FIELD, PRODUCTION  
 PROCESS THEREFOR AND GOLDSMITHERY PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM  
 SAID SEMI-FINISHED ARTICLE]

**- - SEMI-FINISHED ARTICLE, PROCESS AND PRODUCT  
 RELATING TO GOLD, JEWELRY AND THE LIKE- -**

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

**[DESCRIPTION]**

**- - FIELD OF THE INVENTION - -**

**[Field of the Invention]**

The present invention [generally] relates generally to [the field of goldsmithery and costume] gold articles, jewelry and the like and, more particularly, [has as its object a] semi-finished articles [with an interlinked structure for the goldsmithery and costume jewelry field, suitable in particular] and methods for the production of items such as necklaces, chokers, bracelets, ear rings[,] and pendants [and similar products].

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

[The invention also relates to a method for the production of said semi-finished article and the goldsmithery and costume jewelry products manufactured therefrom.]

Please amend page 1 from after paragraph 3 to before the first full paragraph on page 2 to read as follows:

**- - BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION - -**

**[Background Art]**

[A nowadays well-consolidated tendency of the above mentioned field, sustained by a market that pays ever greater attention to the aspects of an economic nature, is to propose] Current economics and market trends in the gold and jewelry industries often require that unfinished components or models be proposed having [characterized by] a high ratio between the exposed surface and their weight, i.e., models that are both light and relatively eye-catching. Of course, complying with this requirement must not [affect] negatively affect the mechanical resistance of the product and its looseness, [in particular as far as] especially where necklaces are concerned. Another important requirement [that must always be met is to make available a] is that the product [that will] be [suitable for] capable of being subjected to surface treatments [that will] for further enhanc[e]ing its brightness.

Please amend page 2, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

[Other] Additional requirements [of a general character that have to be met together with those that have just been mentioned concern the possibility of] are that it be possible to produc[ing]e a semi-finished product[s] usable as a basis for the production of a relatively large variety of articles [in this field by means of] using a simple and economical manufacturing method [to be] carried out preferably by conventional machinery needing only minor modification[s to fit to] for accommodating the new production.

Please amend page 2, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

Finally, [a constant need to be taken always into account in the goldsmithery field] in the production of gold and/or jewelry articles, it is frequently necessary to find new ornamental shapes and [new] production techniques [featuring an] having relatively high flexibility so as to make easier or also stimulate the creativ[e activ]ity of the designers.

Please amend page 2 from after the second full paragraph to before the first full paragraph on page 3 to read as follows:

[With these object in mind, the present invention provides a new semi-finished product with an interlinked structure, as well as a production method thereof, providing the base material for manufacturing such goldsmithery products as necklaces, chokers,

bracelets, ear rings, pendants and other similar articles in a large variety of different models.]

Please amend page 3, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

[Another object of the present invention is to achieve the result mentioned above by means of a simple and economic procedure that can be readily automated with the use of machines having a substantially conventional structure.]

Please amend page 3, second full paragraph, to read as follows:

**-- OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --**

**[Summary of the Invention]**

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a semi-finished article having an interlinked structure, as well as a method for producing the article that can serve as a base for the manufacture of gold and/or jewelry articles such as necklaces, chokers, bracelets, ear rings, pendants or the like in a relatively large variety of models.

Another object of the present invention is to make it easier for and to stimulate the creativity of gold and/or jewelry article designers to develop new ornamental shapes and production techniques having a relatively high degree of flexibility.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a semi-finished product usable as a basis for the production of a relatively large variety of articles using a simple

and economical procedure that can be readily automated with the use of machines of substantially conventional arrangement.

These and other objects [are] and advantages may be attained by [means of the] a semi-finished article [with] having an interlinked structure, according to the present invention, [which is made up] comprised of at least two chains arranged side-by-side and generally in the same plane [and], spaced apart from [each other] and connected to [each] one another by [means of] a plurality of crosspieces extending from a link of one chain to a link of the other chain.

According to another aspect of the present invention, [The production process] a method is provided for manufacturing [of the] a semi-finished article [has the essential features set forth in claim 9 hereinbelow] having an interlinked structure comprised of at least two chains arranged side-by-side and generally in the same plane, spaced apart from and connected to one another by a plurality of crosspieces extending from a link of one chain to a link of the other chain. Initially, two chains are fed in a first forwardly moving direction. A metal wire is fed in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction. Next, the wire is cut into portions, each having a length equal to the length of the crosspieces. The portions obtained are then moved or translated so as to be arranged between two respective links of the two chains. Finally, the ends of the portions are welded to sides of the respective links of the chains.

Please amend page 3, fourth full paragraph, to read as follows:

- - **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** - -

**[Brief description of the drawings]**

[Further features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the description set forth below of an exemplary embodiment not to be considered limiting in any way, such description making] A specific, illustrative article, method and product, in accordance with the present invention, will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings [attached hereto], in which:

Please amend page 4, paragraph 1, as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 1 shows a length of [the] a semi-finished article [with] having an interlinked structure, according to one aspect of the present invention;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 2 shows a [variant of the] semi-finished article [with] having a multiple interlinked structure, according to another aspect of the present invention;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

[- Figures] FIG. 3 [and 4 show] is a plan view [and a side elevation] of the [semi-finished] article of [Figure] FIG. 1 after it has been [submitted] subjected to a finishing treatment;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the article shown in FIG. 3;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 5 shows a length of a semi-finished article, according to a further aspect of the present invention, obtained from a pair of alternat[e]ing link chains [made] constructed of different metals;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 5, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 6 shows the [semi-finished] article of [Figure] FIG. 5 [after] with the links [made] constructed of one of the [two] metals [are] removed;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 6, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 7 shows [the] an article, according to yet another [a further] aspect of the present invention, obtained from two chains [made] constructed of different metals;



Please amend page 4, paragraph 7, to read as follows:

[- Figure] FIG. 8 shows the article of [Figure] FIG. 7 [after removal of] with one of the two chains removed;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 8, to read as follows:

[- Figures] FIG. 9, 10 and 11 shows [three] a semi-finished article[s] of a variable width type, according to the present invention, [of the variable width type with the] having crosspieces arranged in [various] a first selected pattern[s];

FIG. 10 shows a semi-finished article of a variable width type, according to the present invention, having crosspieces arranged in a second selected pattern; and

FIG. 11 shows a semi-finished article of a variable width type, according to the present invention, having crosspieces arranged in a third selected pattern.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph 8 on page 4:

- - The same numerals are used throughout the drawing figures to designate similar elements. Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. - -

Please amend from after paragraph 8 on page 4 to before the first full paragraph on page 6, to read as follows:

**- - DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS - -**

**[Detailed description of the Invention]**

\_\_\_\_ Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1-11, there is shown generally a specific, illustrative semi-finished article having an interlinked structure, a method and a product relating to gold articles, jewelry and the like, in accordance with the present invention. [With reference to Figure] According to one embodiment, illustrated generally in FIG. 1, [the] a base version of the semi-finished article [with an interlinked structure according to the invention is formed by] comprises two chains 1 and 2 connected to [each] one another by [means of] a plurality of crosspieces 3 [that] extending between the [two] chains [1 and 2] from a link of one chain to a link of the other chain. In the illustrated embodiment, [the two] chains 1 and 2 are parallel to [each] one another and the crosspieces [3] are [equally] generally spaced apart equally and are of generally equal length.

\_\_\_\_ [In the variation] According to another aspect of the present invention, shown generally in [Figure] FIG. 2, the semi-finished article with [an] interlinked structure [accor-ding to the invention] has a multiple form [constituted by] comprising a central chain 4 and two side chains 5 and 6 generally parallel [with each] to one another [in which the links]. Links of the central chain [4] are linked to homologous links of the side

chains [5 and 6] by two groups of crosspieces 7 and 8. [A variation of the semi-finished article in multiple form, not shown in the drawings inasmuch as it is readily comprehensible for a skilled person in the art] Alternatively or concurrently, [envisages] the central chain [4 being substituted] is replaced by two chains [that are] paired along one side of their links, while two groups of linkage crosspieces extend from their opposite sides in order to join them to side chains. The number of chains may, of course, be increased[, of course,] and [correspondingly increased] the groups of linkage crosspieces may be increased corre-spondingly as well[; likewise the]. The designer may likewise vary the width of each group of crosspieces or the type of [the] chains, [thus] thereby obtaining semi-finished products of a more or less complex structure.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend page 18, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

#### **[ABSTRACT]**

#### **- - ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE - -**

A semi-finished article [with] having an interlinked structure, a method and a product for [the goldsmith and costume] gold articles, jewelry [field] and the like comprising two chains arranged side-by-side and generally in the same plane, spaced apart from [each other] and connected [with each] to one another by [means of] a plurality of crosspieces extending from a link of one chain to a link of the other chain.